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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenneth J. Carstensen Examiner: MacArthur, Victor L.
Serial No. 09/961,391 Group Art Unit: 3679
Filed: 09/25/01 Docket No.:
Title: METHOD OF FABRICATING GRATING ASSISTED COUPLER DEVICES

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 6, 2002, applicant provisionally elects the species designated in the action as comprising Figs. 1, 3 and 4, the claims readable on which are 1, 2, 4-8, 15-19 and 28-30. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the requirement for restriction as to claims species 2, 3 and 4, namely claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 (species 2), claims 11 and 12 (species 4) and claims 13, 14, 25, 26 and 27 (species 3). However, the themes and expressions of the claims all define entities which are so united and related that they should clearly be covered by one search and encompassed within the same logical analysis. The request for reconsideration does not extend to the method claims, 20-24.

In reviewing the claimed subject matter it should be recognized that sucker rods comprise a very specific part of oil field equipment and technology, which has long been virtually standardized by American Petroleum Institute specifications. These specifications do not countenance, accept or suggest any assembly which incorporates stresses other than those introduced by engagement of the pin shoulder against the coupling and face. Therefore, pre-stressing in the prior art of sucker rods is limited to the terminal regions of the coupling and the coextensive portions of lengths of the pins. Applicant, however, has taught and claimed different approaches all based on introducing interior stresses of defined character because of

pin and compression, whether directly or through a torque washer. It is respectfully submitted that the scope of any search that encompasses Figs. 1, 3 and 4 (internal torque washer of species 1) will inherently cover Fig. 6 (species 2), in which direct pin end engagement is mentioned. Claims to both these single and the dual male thread forms (species 3 and 4) include not only the pre-stress relationships but also dimensional relationships by which the tension and compression are assured and makeup is facilitated. It is therefore submitted that the inclusion of the pre-stress concepts in claims 11-14 to 25-27 relating to the double threshold section versions of Figs. 7-11 (species 3 and 4) means that any examination of the provisionally elected form of species 1 will inherently include this modification as well. The novel approach introduced by applicant is distinctive and the different variants have patentable commonality in the internal engagement and dimensional relationships that introduce the specified tensile and compressive stresses.

Respectfully submitted,

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